



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN SENTENCED FOR ASSAULTING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for assaulting federal law enforcement officers by attempting to ram them with his car.

Christopher J. Cooper, 20, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to seven years in federal prison without parole.

On May 12, 2005, **Cooper** pleaded guilty to the charge contained in a March 2, 2005, federal indictment. **Cooper** admitted that he was driving a Chevrolet Caprice when several law enforcement officers attempted to arrest him on Feb. 9, 2005. According to Graves, officers had been conducting surveillance of **Cooper** and co-defendant **Darris P. Mack**, 19, of Kansas City, in relation to a string of residential burglaries. **Cooper** and **Mack** entered then left several apartment complexes, Graves said, and when they were seen leaving an apartment building carrying several items that were placed in the Caprice, officers attempted to take them into custody. Several law enforcement vehicles were parked in order to block their exit while officers on foot attempted to arrest them.

When the officers approached the car, however, **Cooper** accelerated forward, nearly hitting several law enforcement officers, before crashing into a fire hydrant. **Cooper** then placed the vehicle in reverse and proceeded rapidly, again nearly hitting law enforcement officers before crashing into a brick wall. Law enforcement officers converged on the vehicle, but **Cooper** raced forward again, narrowly missing several law enforcement officers. During this attempted arrest, Graves said, two law enforcement officers opened the car's doors in unsuccessful efforts to pull **Cooper** and **Mack** from the vehicle.

Cooper and **Mack** attempted to elude law enforcement officers until finally running over stop sticks near 35th and Wabash, Graves said. **Cooper** and **Mack** abandoned the vehicle and

attempted to flee, but were apprehended.

On May 26, 2005, **Mack** pleaded guilty to assaulting federal law enforcement officers. **Mack** admitted that he directed **Cooper** to flee from the police and directed **Cooper** where to drive and how to avoid the arresting officers. A sentencing hearing has not yet been scheduled.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney K. Michael Warner. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow